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VILLA, MURDERER, PENSIONED.

Francisco Villa, bandit, plunderer and murderer of international reputation, a criminal with a lust for crime unprecedented, was yesterday reported to have surrendered to the Mexican federal government under an agreement by which he is restored to full citizenship and is granted a pension. He has secured for his men a promise that they will be restored to full citizenship and he given farming lands by the Mexican authorities. From all of which we conclude that it pays to be a bandit, that it pays to murder and to rape.

II.

The compromise with Villa is a horrible example of Mexican foreign policy. The Mexican government instead of standing firm before a firing squad or hanging him to the highest tree in the republic as he has done with hundreds, yes, thousands, of his countrymen, makes a treaty with him whereby he will have the reins of the country and a pension in return for his word, which is worth no more than that of the former German emperor, that he will no longer kill, no longer rape and steal. The Mexican government has made a profit now deal a shameful and cowardly deal. It has shown that it is yellow from the top of its head to the bottom of its feet. Mexico already sunk so low in the eyes of the world that few nations recognize her as a sister nation, has by its pact with this filthy outlaw lowered itself still further in the estimation of civilized people everywhere. The agreement is so rotten that we are tempted to believe the league of nations may have sponsored it.

III.

Francisco Villa, despite his crimes and the fact that he ought to hang, has been an unique character, having risen from a bandit with a price on his head to one of the dominant figures in Mexico, one time seriously considered for the presidency of that nation, only to fall again to outlawry. He was a man both loved and hated as no other has been in Mexico since the time of Benito Juarez. Villa's real name is Doroteo Arango, but he abandoned this when he entered upon his regime of banditry. He was born in the little mining town of Las Nieves, Durango, of poor parents. Many stories are told of his first clash with the laws of Mexico, but the one most frequently related is that a captain in one of President Diaz's regiments won the heart of his sister and eloped with her without the formality of a marriage ceremony. Villa, according to the tale, pursued the pair, forced a marriage, forced his newly acquired brother-in-law to sign his own death certificate and dig his own grave, shot him and escaped to the mountains. Whatever the truth is in this story, President Diaz placed a price upon his head. And yet, various stories are told showing that Villa's heart was not at all times hardened by his lust for crime. The spoils his band acquired from the wealthy landowners and mining men were frequently shared with the poor peons and he never lacked a friendly warning when the officers of the law set their traps for him.

IV.

At the time of the Mexican revolution against Diaz, in 1910, Villa joined the ill-fated revolutionary leader and did yeoman service with his band in the fighting around Juarez. He accompanied Madero to Mexico City, but later returned to Chihuahua. When Madero sent General Victoriano Huerta, then his commander-in-chief, into the north to break the Orozco rebellion, Huerta and Villa clashed. Each was intolerant of the other and Huerta finally had Villa arrested and condemned to death. Madero, however, commuted the sentence to imprisonment. When in the penitentiary Villa taught himself to read and write, and then escaped, seeking refuge across the Texas border. When Huerta declared himself dictator after Madero's death in 1913, and Carranza raised the banner of revolt in Coahuila, Villa again crossed the border to take a hand against his old-time enemy. The peons flocked to his standard and he shut down after blow to the disorganized federal forces. Thousands were killed in battles; cities evacuated before Villa's determined advance. The campaign cleared the federal forces. Thousands were killed in battles; cities were evacuated more than half the country. Villa broke with Carranza, however, and open warfare between the two was started. Later the Carranza forces under General Obregon defeated the bandit leader in two decisive engagements, the first battles, up to that time, that Villa had ever lost. The United States recognized the Carranza government. Villa, after his defeat by Obregon, gathered his forces and marched north in an effort to seize Agua Prieta, a border port through which he hoped to secure arms and supplies. When he reached the border he found a strong force of American troops drawn up along the line prepared to prevent an attack from a quarter which would endanger American citizens on their own side of the line. Villa made his attack but was beaten off by General Calles. Again he turned south, only to meet federal troops advancing from Hermosillo. Caught between two fires, he turned back to his own country, Chihuahua. His troops deserted.

Villa sought the mountains, again a bandit with a price on his head. He opened a campaign of looting unprecedented. Hunted closely by Carranza troops, it was rumored that he was approaching the border in the hope of escaping to the United States. Then came the most daring and wild act of his reckless career, the attack, on March 9, 1919, on the American town of Columbus, N. M., and its garrison of three troops of American cavalry, resulting in the dispatch of United States soldiers into Mexico.

Whatever his crimes, and they were many, none could doubt Villa's courage. He loved fighting and seemed happiest when under fire. For a time he was almost an idol to most of his men and ruled them by an odd mixture of love and fear. None who saw him at the head of his troops in battle could doubt that he was a leader of men. When he crammed a peon's straw sombrero on the back of his head, filled the front of his shirt with grenades made of eight-inch pieces of gas pipe and a stick of dynamite,

and yelled "Undule machachos," they followed him eagerly, perhaps none the less eagerly from the knowledge that a firing squad in the rear had orders to shoot the first man who faltered. Nothing so delighted him as to "throw a scare" into his men. He would call them up for some declaration of duty, tongue-lash them until they expected nothing short of immediate execution, whack them across the back with the flat of his sword and then grin, throw them a handful of pesos, and warn them not to do it again.

Despite the peace that has been arranged, Villa will be heard from again. He, or the federal authorities, announce his intention of retiring to private life. A plutocratic ambition, too much so for the outlaw. Yes, he will be heard from again, if the Mexican government doesn't have him shot in the back within the next 10 days.

ASK TO EXCLUDE NATIONAL PARKS

(Correspondence Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, July 24. Amendment of the new waterpower act, an act to exclude the national parks from the provisions will be demanded of congress at its next session, it is announced by Robert Sterling Yard, executive secretary of the National Parks association. Mr. Yard also says that a fight will be made to have congress report pending legislation which he asserts, open the way for irrigation projects to draw in the parks for water.

Without admitting Mr. Yard says the waterpower act is "the death warrant" of the national parks system because all government owned land and reservations just embraced within its terms, making it possible for private interests to open dams, powerhouses, transmission lines and other structures by obtaining power from the federal waterpower commission.

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